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MARICOPA COUNTY SELECTS NEW TOBACCO PREVENTION TEAM LEADER

(Phoenix, AZ) Robert Neese was recently named Tobacco Prevention Team Leader for the Maricopa County Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MACTUPP). In this role, Neese will be responsible for increasing tobacco prevention visibility among Valley school districts and surrounding communities. His primary focus will be to manage the prevention team, which provides teachers and communities access to tobacco education resources, curricula, services and training opportunities.

“I am excited to have the opportunity to work in a hands-on environment and with people who are enthusiastic and optimistic regarding the challenges associated with tobacco prevention,” said Neese. “I strongly believe in the ideology of prevention and wish to continue the impact this program has had on youth in the community.”

The prevention team’s award winning curriculum is designed for elementary education students, informing them of the damaging health effects caused by tobacco use. MACTUPP partnered with 236 countywide schools providing students with intensive prevention education. The program encompasses a wide range of activities designed to strengthen and deepen the students’ learning experience. The program also includes a powerful teen theater production, *Tobacco: The Musical*. This musical is performed by local young actors who explore the myths and health-related consequences of tobacco.

Neese has more than 10 years of experience in community and school based prevention programs. Neese held several managerial positions for two highly successful prevention programs at West Side Social Services. Neese received his master’s degree in Social Work from ASU West and his bachelor’s of Social Work from ASU.

About Maricopa County Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MACTUPP)

MACTUPP provides leadership, education and support to all residents, communities and businesses to create tobacco-free environments. MACTUPP offers free smoking cessation classes throughout the valley where participants learn techniques to help them quit, receive support needed to be successful and also receive 50% off nicotine replacement therapy. For more information, please call 602-372-7272 or visit our Website at <http://www.mactupp.org>.

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